



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/

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Contact: Karen Szczepanski
(517) 373-2420

Farmers could see tax credits for securing anhydrous ammonia under new Senate bill

Lansing – Michigan farmers who fertilize their fields with anhydrous ammonia would be eligible for tax credits if they implement certain security measures under a bill introduced Thursday by Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell).

“With methamphetamine use on the rise, farmers must be vigilant about keeping their anhydrous ammonia supplies out of the wrong hands,” Garcia said. “These tax incentives are designed to reward farmers who take extra precautions by securing their supplies. It is my hope that with this legislation, we will be able to protect farms from theft as well as the environment.”

The theft and unlawful transportation of anhydrous ammonia, often used in the production of methamphetamine, puts the public at risk to exposure through contact or inhalation.

Senate Bill 844 provides tax credits to farmers for securing their supplies of anhydrous ammonia from possible theft according to guidelines established by the Commission of Agriculture under the Anhydrous Ammonia Security Act. The tax credit would begin in the 2004 tax year and could not exceed the farmer's tax liability.

The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

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